

Governor Jim Doyle  
Maj. Gen. Albert Wilkening  
The Adjutant General  
Ed Gleason, Administrator  
Vol. 13, Issue No. 2 March/April 2004



# WEM Digest

Issues and Events for Wisconsin's Emergency Management

## Rain and rapid snow melt cause raging floodwaters -Gov. declares State of Emergency, orders Guard help

Officials in Antigo are calling it the worst flooding in over 40 years as heavy rains and rapid snow melt caused the Spring Brook to overflow its banks and become a raging river.

The flooding began on the weekend of March 27. Governor Doyle declared a State of Emergency for Langlade County. He also authorized 30 National Guard soldiers to assist with perimeter security, evacuations and sandbags. The Guard brought in heavy trucks and Humvees that proved to be a great resource.

Many families were evacuated. About 100

homes and 40 businesses were impacted by the floodwaters. Both the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross provided assistance. The Red Cross opened emergency shelters for the evacuees.

The flood waters began to recede quickly as cooler overnight temperatures and sunshine helped. Most evacuated residents were able to go back to their homes within a few days.

None of the homes or businesses in Antigo were washed away or destroyed. Most homes impacted had flooded basements. Flood damage was mainly limited to appliances such



***These sandbags were no match for the raging floodwaters in downtown Antigo on March 28, 2004.***

*Picture by Langlade County Emergency Management*

as hot water heaters, furnaces, and washers and dryers.

Marinette County also experienced scattered flooding in the southern portion of the county. The flooding was also caused

by the combination of heavy rains and rapid snow melt. Officials say a few days prior to the flooding there was up to 30 inches of snow on the ground, but

***Continued on Page 7***

## Governor signs mutual aid bill

***By Randi Wind-Milsap***  
*DMA Legal Counsel*

Governor Doyle signed legislation that promotes intra-state mutual aid among various emergency response groups in Wisconsin.

Senate Bill 120 establishes a statewide system of mutual aid assistance for emergency management, fire departments, EMS, tribes, and public health departments. For many years, law enforcement agencies have been allowed to enter into mutual aid agreements with other law enforcement agencies in the state.

Law enforcement officers providing assistance are considered employees of the law enforcement agency that requested the help.

This system has been used in many emergencies. In recent years, law enforcement mutual aid was used following the Siren Tornado in 2001 and Ladysmith Tornado in 2002. Law enforcement from surrounding communities and counties provided a variety of assistance including dispatching, traffic control and security.

***Continued on Page 3***



***Governor Doyle was surrounded by supporters of the legislation as he signed SB 120.*** *Photo by Shawn Pfaff*

# A busy spring at WEM

## ***A Successful Governor's Conference***

I want to thank all of those who attended the Governor's Conference on Emergency Management and Homeland Security. We had over 500 + in attendance and it was a great opportunity to sharpen the saw and learn more about emergency management and homeland security issues.

The President taking a few moments to praise the work of Wisconsin's first responders was very much appreciated and reflects the important work you all do to keep our nation safe.

This marked the fourth year we have held the conference at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. This facility has been a gracious host and has worked very hard to meet our needs. We are appreciative of their efforts during this time.

Next year the Conference moves to the Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva. The Conference will be April 5-6, 2005. We look forward to seeing you there.

## ***Governor signs Intra-state Mutual Aid Legislation***

On April 7, Governor Doyle signed Senate Bill 120 that among other things, strengthens our public health system during times of emergencies and also establishes a statewide system of mutual aid for emergency management programs, emergency medical services, fire departments, and local health departments.

The legislation also requires the use of Incident Command System

(ICS) in managing emergencies and training of specified personnel in ICS. All of these measures will further advance Wisconsin's terrorism preparedness efforts.

Much of the credit goes to Senator Judith Robson (Beloit) who has championed this legislation and Senator Ron Brown (Eau Claire) whose committee had oversight of this legislation.

## ***Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week***

April 19-23, 2004 is Wisconsin's Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week. There were 14 reported tornadoes in 2003 and on average we experience 21 tornadoes each year. In addition to these devastating storms, high winds, lightening, hail and flooding normally accompany severe weather.

Please take the time to raise the awareness of these storms and encourage your citizens to take preparedness steps so they will be ready when a storm strikes.

## ***Farewell to Deputy Administrator Al Shanks***

On May 1, Al Shanks will be stepping down and retiring from Wisconsin Emergency Management. He is completing a career rich in service to the citizens of Wisconsin.

Al began his career in law enforcement as a patrol officer with the Sauk County Sheriff's Department and was elected sheriff and served from 1975-1987. He has been with WEM as Emergency Police Services Deputy Director and then Bureau



***WEM Administrator Ed Gleason presents WEM Deputy Administrator Al Shanks with the Level 4 Emergency Management Certification at the Governor's Conference on Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Al is retiring after 40 years of public service.***

Chief of Response and Recovery. In addition, in his spare time he has served as president on the Sauk Prairie School Board, Fire Chief of Merrimac Fire Department, and president of the village of Merrimac. We thank him for his dedicated service and wish him fair winds and following seas in the years ahead.

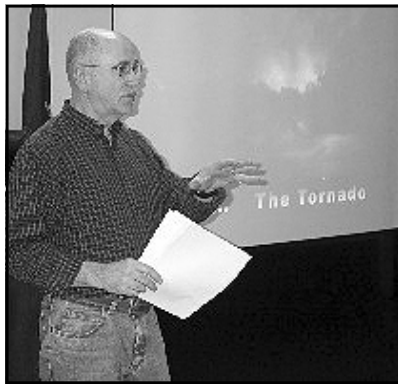
***WEM Digest***  
is published bi-monthly by  
Wisconsin Emergency  
Management  
PO Box 7865  
Madison, WI 53707-7865  
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# Time to focus on severe weather

By Cullen Peltier  
WEMA President

Well, now that you have all had your winter lull, it's time to get busy. Severe weather is on the horizon and we will be spending time watching radar screens and weather reports, conferring with the National Weather Service, and hoping our pagers do not go off during that important family function.



***Jackson County Emergency Management Director John Elliot participates in a local SKYWARN program this March to prepare for the upcoming severe weather season.*** Photo by John Elliot

Of course, I am kidding about the winter lull. In fact, in my short time as an emergency manager, the past couple of months have been the busiest that I have experienced. The purchase orders are in, the new terrorism grant applications should be out soon, and now there are some additional tasks that we will be asked to assist with including the new Buffer Zone Protection Plans that the Department of Homeland Security is requesting the development of.

I am not using this article as a chance to complain about the extra work. In fact, I view most of the extra work as opportunities to expand our programs. I am using this article as a reminder and as an opportunity to remind us what our mission as emergency managers is. We are here to help our citizens mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from **ALL HAZARDS**.

It is sometimes easy to forget what we focused on prior to the planes hitting the World Trade Center. Some of the traditional



hazards we associate with have taken a back burner to acts of terrorism. However, natural hazards may be more likely to occur in your county. As we have seen in some of our northern counties this spring, severe weather is a threat we face on a daily basis this time of year.

I encourage you to take some time this severe weather season to focus on all hazards. I encourage you to visit your schools and produce public service announcements. In general, inform your citizens of the hazards associated with severe weather and when you are looking to the sky to pray that you do not have another task put on you, also keep an eye out for that tornado or lightning storm that may be looming.

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## ***SB 120 Continued From Page 1***

Under the bill, local officials or the Incident Commander during an emergency may request mutual aid from any emergency management program, EMS program, fire department, or local health department in Wisconsin to help provide assistance. As is the case with the law enforcement statute, the local government requesting assistance would be responsible for all related costs incurred by the assisting departments or agencies.

SB 120 also requires the use of Incident Command System (ICS) in emergencies and has designated

Wisconsin Emergency Management to continue to provide ICS training for appropriate personnel. The measure requires that ICS be used by all emergency response agencies, including local health departments, in responding to, managing, and coordinating multi-agency or multi-jurisdiction incidents, when a state or local emergency declaration has been made or in any other emergency situation.

The legislation also creates a 23-member Public Health Council with representatives from a variety of health and public safety

agencies. The council is required to advise DHFS, the Governor, the legislature and the public on progress in implementing DHFS's 10-year public health plan and the coordination of response to public health emergencies.

The bill also requires the state to reimburse local health departments for all of their expenses incurred quarantining individuals outside his or her home during a declared public health state of emergency. This provision was introduced to respond to fears of a biological threat and the local costs associated with implementing a quarantine.

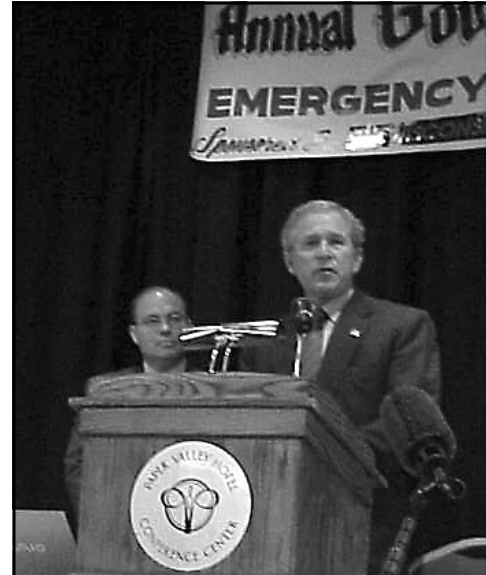
# 2004 Governor's Conference on Emergency Management & Homeland Security

## *- Surprise visit highlights conference*

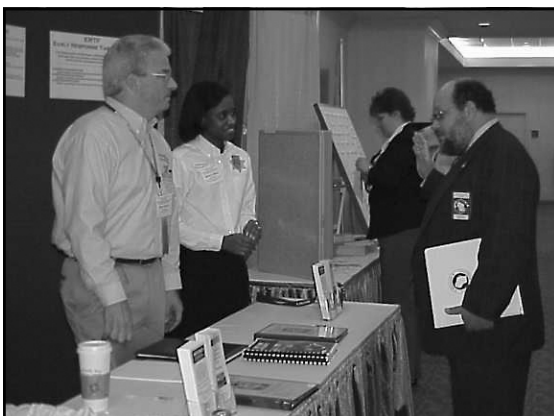
President Bush made a surprise visit to the 37th Annual Governor's Conference on Emergency Management and Homeland Security at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton.

The President was in Appleton presenting an economic speech across the street at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, when he decided to stop by the conference on his way to the airport. Bush thanked the more than 500 emergency personnel attending the conference for the job that they do and to "remain vigilant on the war on terror."

The two-day conference focused on a variety of homeland security and emergency management issues. Presentations included the Threat of Bioterrorism, the Northeast Blackout of 2003, Emergency Communications Interoperability and a Recap of the Emergency Planning for Harleyfest.



*Conference organizers were given a 20 minute advance notice that the President would be stopping by. His appearance was a surprise to all those attending the conference.*



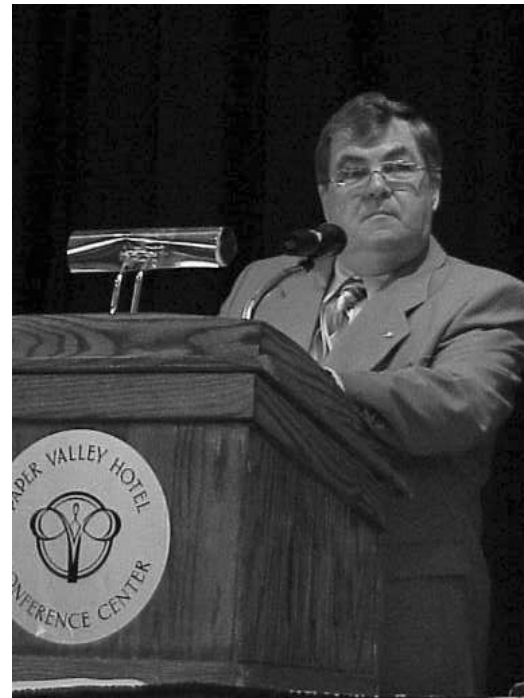
*Wisconsin Emergency Management Southwest Regional Director Larry Reed talks with Steve Hutson and Genene Hibbler at the Milwaukee County Volunteers Active in Disasters (VOAD) booth.*



*Linda Coogan, Dawn Foss and Pat Bernhardt of Wisconsin Emergency Management take a quick break from the registration table. More than 500 people attended this year's conference.*



*WEM Administrator Ed Gleason presented Level 4 Emergency Manager Certificates at the conference. Those awarded the Level 4 Certification have completed 52 hours of independent study course work, 240 hours of classroom activities, 80 hours of study at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and have passed a written exam. From the left are Ed Gleason, Oconomowoc Police Chief Hugh Martin, WEM Northwest Regional Director Rhonda Reynolds, Genene Hibbler of Milwaukee County Emergency Management, WEM Southwest Regional Director Larry Reed, WEM Deputy Administrator Al Shanks and WEM Exercise & Training Supervisor Jerry Haberl.*



*WEM Deputy Administrator and Director of the Response and Recovery Bureau Al Shanks took a few minutes at the conference to thank everyone and to say goodbye. Al is retiring at the end of April after serving more than 40 years in public service including 17 years with Wisconsin Emergency Management.*



*Rusty Kapela of the National Weather Service works the booth at the Governor's Conference. Rusty along with fellow meteorologists Jeff Last and Carol Christensen also presented an overview of 2003 significant weather events and gave an outlook for 2004 spring/summer weather.*



*WEM tested its new 80-foot portable tower at the conference. The tower can light the area of a football field.*

# Spray planes to take to Wisconsin's skies soon

*By Jane Larson*  
DATCP Public Information Officer

Low-flying yellow spray planes, will once again take to the skies above Wisconsin this spring to manage the destructive forest pest – gypsy moth.

This year, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and Department of Natural Resources will spray more than 570,000 acres in 37 counties with one of three biological pesticides. Spraying will begin in mid- to-late May and continue into July.

Because citizens may call emergency management agencies or emergency numbers when they see low-flying planes, informational packets will go out to local officials of the effected counties. The packet will have maps of the spray blocks, general information about gypsy moths and our spray operation. In addition, the packet will have information about the spray materials loaded on the planes, in the unlikely event of a crash. It would be helpful to share this information with your Local Emergency Planning Committee members.

Please note our toll-free number: 800-642-6684. If citizens call you or your 911 center with concerns or complaints, please refer them to this number.

Exact spray dates are not available because spraying must be coordinated with the timing of the caterpillar hatch. The hatch depends on how quickly the weather warms up and the development of the tree leaves.

We plan to begin spraying in mid-to-late May at sites in southern Wisconsin and then move northward. When the start date is determined, it will be announced on the toll-free line (800-642-6684) and through local media. Once spraying begins, the recording on the toll-free line will be updated

daily with the next day's spray plans. As a reminder, your office will also be called the day before your area will be sprayed.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Jane Larson of DATCP at 608-224-5005 or e-mail at [jane.larson@datcp.state.wi.us](mailto:jane.larson@datcp.state.wi.us).

## State receives mitigation grants

*By Roxanne Gray*  
WEM Hazard Mitigation Officer

Wisconsin has been awarded \$230,990 under a new federal competitive grant program for pre-disaster mitigation projects.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive (PDM-C) Grant Program has selected Calumet, Florence and Kewaunee Counties, the Ho-Chunk Nation and the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians for the development of comprehensive all-hazard mitigation plans. The grants are funded 75% with federal funds and a 25% local match.

The FY2003 budget provided \$150 million under the National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund to initiate a competitive grant program for pre-disaster mitigation activities. Last October, Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) submitted five planning and six project grants totaling \$3,989,374.

Nationally, the Federal Emergency Management Agency received 459 grant applications. They were evaluated by various federal, state and tribal officials. WEM's State Hazard Mitigation Officer Roxanne Gray was selected to participate in the national evaluation process.

Another \$150 million will be made available this year through the national competition. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the WEM Mitigation staff at 608-242-3232.



***WEM's Hazard Mitigation staff served up some mitigation tips at their Mitigation Café during the Governor's Conference on Emergency Management and Homeland Security in Appleton. From the left are Kent MacLaughlin, Roxanne Gray and Susan Boldt.***

### ***Flooding from Page 1***

more than half of it melted during the sudden warm temperatures.

Marinette County officials reported several homes with basement flooding but fortunately only three homes had major damage. In addition, over 20 roads were washed out and had damage.

Due to the limited damage, there was no request for federal disaster assistance. However, some state agencies are working with the impacted communities. The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority gave the American Red Cross chapters financial grants, (\$2,000 for Antigo and \$1,000 for Marinette



***This trailer park in Marinette County was flooded when warm temperatures quickly turned snow banks into ponds.*** Photo by Erik Lowman



***Major General Al Wilkening and WEM Administrator Ed Gleason met with officials in Antigo and toured some of the flooded areas.*** Photo by Norm Lenburg

County) to help pay for costs associated with emergency sheltering.

In addition, the city of Antigo and Marinette County are applying for the Community Development Block Grant—Emergency Assistance Program

through the Department of Commerce. These grants would be administered locally and would be used to help flood victims pay for new water heaters, furnaces and other eligible real property items that were damaged by flooding.

## **Regional News**

Best wishes to ***WEM's Southwest Region Program Assistant Persis Shafer*** who has accepted a position at the UW in Madison. Good Luck!

***Phil Hansen***, the executive director of the Badger Chapter of the American Red Cross has accepted a new position in Massachusetts where he will oversee Red Cross operations in 10 northeastern states.

Good wishes go to former ***Taylor County***

***Emergency Management Director Rolly Sacho*** who has been undergoing various health problems.

***Sheboygan County Emergency Management Director Keith Potter*** is retiring. Keith has been involved in public safety in Sheboygan County for over 30 years!

## **Niemuth to oversee ARES/RACES**

Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO has been selected to oversee Wisconsin's ARES/RACES.

Bill replaces Dr. Stan Kaplan who has served in the leadership position for five years. Bill became involved in ham radio in 1990 as a weather spotter for the National Weather Service.

In January, he was appointed Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) for Wisconsin's nearly 1400 ARES

(Amateur Radio Emergency Service) members.

In addition, he was named Chief Radio Officer (CRO) for the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES).

Bill is employed by Kimberly-Clark Corporation as Global Security Manager worldwide. Special thanks to Dr. Kaplan for his services to emergency management.





## **New Command Post**

*Clark County Emergency Management has purchased a new 30-foot incident command vehicle (ICV) with federal terrorism grants. The vehicle features a state of the art communications center and briefing area. From the left are Clark County Board Chairperson Ralph Landini, Emergency Management Deputy Director Jennifer Lord-Kouraichi, Sheriff Louis Rosandich, Emergency Management Director Robert Powell, Chairman of the Law Enforcement Committee Scott Jalling, and County Supervisor Louis Landini. Photo by Clark County Emergency Management*

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## **Upcoming Events**

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|----------------------|---|
| <b>May 13, 2004</b>  | <b>NOAA Weather Radio<br/>Awareness Day</b>       |
| <b>June 17, 2004</b> | <b>Wisconsin's Heat<br/>Awareness Day</b>         |
| <b>June 26, 2004</b> | <b>Amateur Radio Operator<br/>Recognition Day</b> |